



The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL

K4GSO.us



June 2024

Membership/Events

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP:

Our annual membership renewals have been processed and non-renewals purged as of 4/30/24. Current dues paying members will receive priority on club activities like Field Day, VE team participation and access to Perry Field and GCH. Non-members can still access the Oracle on the club website but will not be included on member emails. As a final note, subscription to the club's Groups.io page is restricted to dues paying members. Here are our results "post purge" as of May 2024.

Class	May 24	%
Technician	22	23
General	27	28
Advanced	5	5
Extra	41	43
Associate	1	1
Total	96	100%

The club ended 2023 with about 126 members on its rolls but that is somewhat deceptive. Not all were active having joined but never getting involved in any events, meetings or activities. A couple went SK during the year and some moved out of the area or are part-time residents.

President Parker's 2024 goal is to continue to grow and increase member participation in the club's various activities. If you know of other hams who would be interested in joining, please invite them to our meetings, operating days or club activities. There is an online application and a link to a paper application on the K4GSO.us website. We continue to encourage our technicians to upgrade to at least General Class and Generals to Extra to enjoy the full benefits and privileges of their licenses.

Regardless of your license class, we continue to learn from each other. Newer hams – don't be afraid to ask questions and for help. Older hams – take a newer ham under your

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Mentoring & Socializing

7:00 PM Meeting

Program:
ARRL Field Day



SSRC Board of Directors, First Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Green Clover Hall
All are welcome

Upcoming Events

June 22-23—ARRL Field Day

Green Clover Hall

July 9 —VE Testing

7:00 PM Green Clover Hall

Check out our upcoming Events: K4GSO.us

Silver Springs Radio Club Net

K4GSO Repeater, 146.610, PL 123

Mondays at 7:30 PM

ARES/SKYWARN Net

K4GSO Repeater, 146.610, PL 123

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM



Our club is growing and Green Clover Hall has a limited number of chairs. Please consider bringing a folding chair or two as a back up.

Membership/Events, continued

wing. If you there are programs you would like to see presented or if you have subject matter expertise (or experience) and would be willing to present a program, please contact one of the club officers. You should have received an email with a membership survey. Please take time to complete it so that the leadership team can provide activities and programs that are of interest to YOU.

UPCOMING POTA EVENTS

For those who are engaged in POTA activities as Activators or Hunters, there are five "Official Events" each year. The events start at 0000 UTC and end 2359 UTC on the event days. Go to POTA.APP for more details. The next official "Support Your Parks" quarterly event" will be on July 20th and 21st. However, don't wait for an official event to get out and enjoy the fresh air, test your rigs, antennas, setups and portable power. Every time you go out is an opportunity to troubleshoot problems instead of during an emergency (hurricane season is now here) where you might not have that luxury. Another benefit of portable operations is to assess your weaknesses and what you need to improve on for successful operations. For instance, can you operate and understand your antenna analyzer, setup your solar charger and battery cables and make emergency field repairs to your or someone else's equipment.

Our club has a growing contingent of POTA activators – both older and younger hams. If you aren't sure how to "do it", ask and also subscribe to the club's Groups.io page where a lot of us post our upcoming activations. Go to the park where the activation is planned. Take your portable station with you and learn. There is plenty of room at our local parks for you.

A side benefit is you never know who else you will see and meet there. In May on a Saturday at Silver Springs State Park, there was a large church group in the center pavilion. After their prayer service and singing, they had a guest speaker who gave an hourlong presentation on surviving on edible Florida plants. I was setup at the adjoining pavilion and heard the whole presentation. Several members eventually drifted over to check out my operation. They also offered to feed me.

NEW QRP RIG AND TALE OF WOE

Let me tell you a story. As some know, I have a new FX-4CR QRP rig. It joins my stable of other QRP radios. It is a very well made beautifully crafted compact unit. Imagine if you would a KX2 on steroids but without the battery and internal tuner. It has a color screen, SDR, Bluetooth, internal soundcard, 80-6m and 20w SSB. Also, it is reasonably priced. One could almost buy three FX-4CRs for the price of one IC-705 or two for the price of a KX2. What's not to like about that! Firmware is open source on GitHub unlike many other radios (looking at you Xiegu). FX-4CRs are hard to come by and there is a waiting list to get one. I signed up on the waiting list in October and finally received mine in early May. Only buy these directly

from the manufacturer otherwise you will probably get a fake. Here's the manufacturer's website if interested: <https://bg2fx.com/fx-4cr-transceiver-prod>



YouTube also has a number of reviews on the rigs. These are excellent:

QRPer has several reviews: <https://qrper.com/?s=fx-4cr>
Robert Nagy describes it as an Engineering Marvel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9V_Mr4JDuijg

Walt on Coastal Waves & Wires: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6ZKyV3HI9Q>

Back to my tale...early on, I unfortunately had a problem with the USB soundcard connection. Pilot error? – maybe or maybe not. However, I did complete one POTA activation with it before the problem occurred. After several emails back and forth with the developer, he diagnosed a problem with the motherboard. No problem...he sent a replacement - no charge or quibbling. He stands behind his radios.

The board was mailed via China Post and had a nice first-class international trip with in-flight movie, meals, drinks and attractive cabin crew. It arrived at the port of entry in Jericho, NY on May 23. It cleared customs then hitched a ride to Chicago, I have no idea why there, arriving on May 28, forwarded to Jacksonville on the 29th and then to Gainesville on the 30th. Meanwhile I had been tracking the package eagerly awaiting its arrival over Memorial weekend. My hopes were dashed when it didn't arrive. In fact, it was routed back to Jacksonville where it proceeded to get lost within the deep bowels of the postal system where it disappeared for days among the other missing packages. It was in Postal Purgatory. Meanwhile, I am still trying to track the package every day and seething having seen no movement or activity. I feared the worst and dreaded requesting a new replacement board for the first replacement board. Time for action. I started making a nuisance of myself both in person (that's not hard for me to do!) at the post office and their online customer care site. Thankfully, USPS SWAT did not pay me a 3:00am visit. However, my frustration and pointed complaints finally got someone's attention because I received a personal response

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Membership/Events, continued

from an individual and the package surprisingly started moving again on June 9. Miraculously it arrived at my QTH on the 10th. The shipping package was sealed tighter than an Egyptian burial sarcophagus. After about 30 minutes of effort, I was able to penetrate the container without amputating a finger or two and hold my new pristine motherboard in my sweaty hands and contemplate its installation in the rig. This was easily accomplished once I figured out the correct orientation of the three FFC cables. YouTube is my friend. To my surprise, after installation the radio worked and now connects to my computer. Now I need to find time to put it in service.

So, to all who have read this far, thank you. FYI, Marty pays me a princely amount "by the word" for my Oracle submissions! 72 Elbert

2024 HAMFEST

OK, mark your calendars for Saturday, December 7 at First Christian Church, Ocala. Vendor setup will occur on the 6th. I know it is early to start thinking about Hamfest, but I'm getting older and now need a running start to stay ahead. I had hoped to pass this on to another unsuspecting amateur and the club was unable to raise the necessary funds to buy out my sizeable contract, so you are stuck with me for one more year. Thankfully, Wayne Peterson, AB4WP, has stepped up to as co-chairman, so there is hope for the future. We have a great Hamfest teams who know their assignments and their continued participation is vital to our success. More details to follow at General Meetings and the Oracle.

KQ3K Presents... The FX-4CR in action Saturday 6/15 at Silver Springs State Park



Tailgate 2024



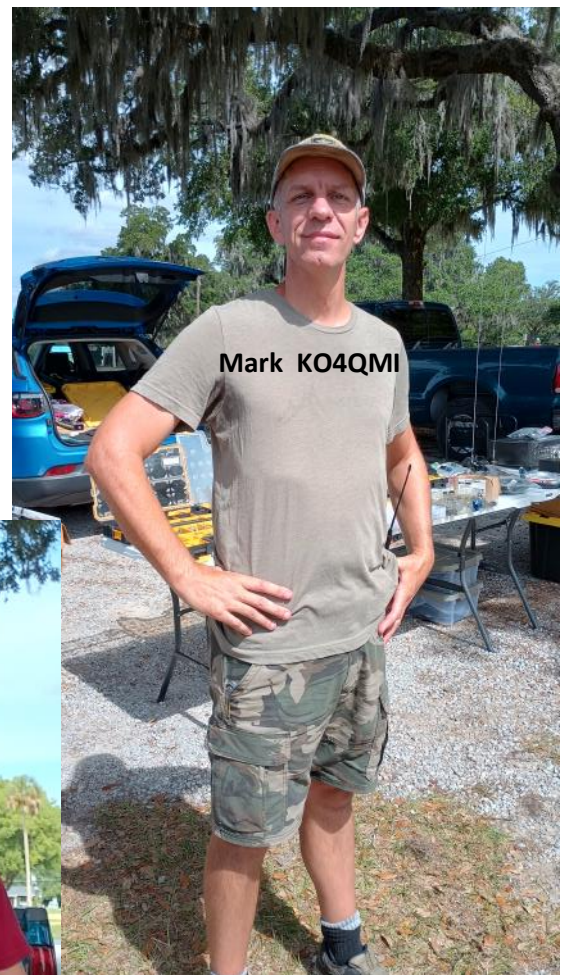
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Tailgate 2024



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Tailgate 2024



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Tailgate 2024 Out-of-Towners



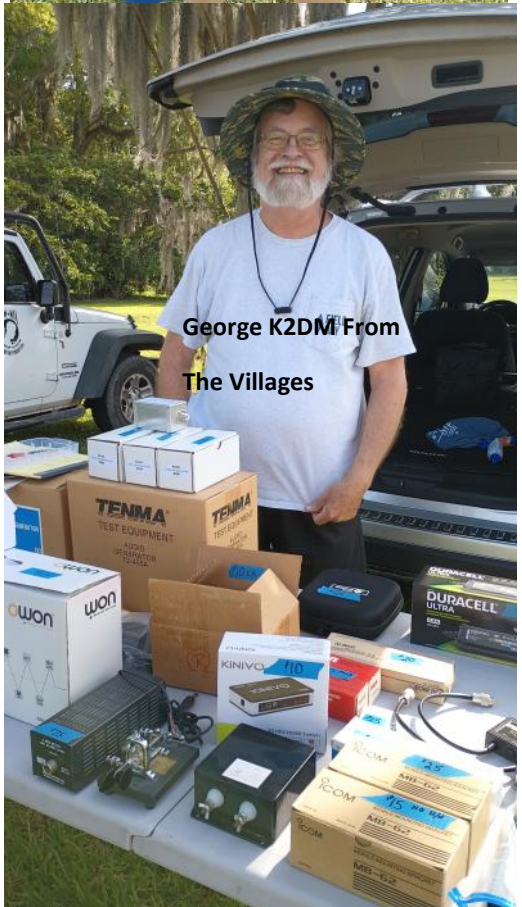
**Tim AA6DQ from
The Villages**



**Dennis N4KPI from
St Augustine**



**Bruce WA1UTQ from
The Villages**



**George K2DM From
The Villages**



The Good Folks from Putnam County

SSRC Loves POTA



Above—Wayne AB4WP and John K4JJK at Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings State Park

Right—Wayne AB4WP and John KQ4BFO at Indian Lake State Park



Below—Wayne AB4WP reports a visitor at Silver Springs State Park on Saturday 6/14. The youngster talked to KB8TSO in Reed City, MI.



Carl's Corner—Carl Berry KC5CMX



TNX KT4WA

TNX KC5CMX

Her Diary:

Tonight, I thought my husband was acting weird. We had made plans to meet at a nice restaurant for dinner. I was shopping with my girlfriends all day long, so I thought he was upset with me for coming home a bit late, but he made no comment. With zero conversation flowing, I suggested that we go someplace quiet so we could talk. He agreed, but didn't say much. On the drive out I asked him what was wrong; He said "nothing". I asked him if it was my fault that he was upset. He said he wasn't upset, it had nothing to do with me, and not to worry about it. On the drive home I told him that I loved him. He just smiled slightly and just kept on driving. I can't explain his behavior and don't know why he didn't just say "I love you too". When we got home, I felt as if I had lost him completely, as if he just wanted nothing to do with me anymore. For the next hour he just sat silently on the couch and stared at the TV. Finally, with silence all around, I decided to go to bed. About 15 minutes later he came to bed, but I still thought he was distracted, and his thoughts were somewhere else. He quickly fell asleep- I cried. I don't know what to do. My life is a mess.

His Diary:

SWR is too high. Can't figure out why....

Summer Hamfests

06/22/2024—[Dade City Lodge Pre-Field Day Hamfest](#), Dade City FL

07/26/2024 - 07/27/2024—[Milton Ham Fest](#), Milton, FL

08/17,2024—08/18/2024 [Huntsville Hamfest 2024](#), Huntsville AL

08/24/2024—[TarcFest](#), Tampa FL



SSRC Has a Group Email! Have You Signed UP?

Andy Allen, NA4DA, Director

Our group is: K4GSO. Just type groups.io in your search bar and follow the link to the site. Sign up if you don't have an account and search for our group: K4GSO. You will see our group: K4GSO / Silver Springs Radio Club. Click on the button: Apply for membership in this group. You're now a member.

Questions? Andy NA4DA 212-729-0446
andy@na4da.com

2024 SSRC Officers

[President - Adam Parker, NY5E](#)

[Vice President - Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY](#)

[Secretary - Dee Seagraves, KO4TMZ](#)

[Treasurer - Annie Allen, KN4RIC](#)

[Past President - Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY](#)

Directors:

[Andy Allen, NA4DA](#)

[Terry Strey, KN4FMH](#)

[Tim Trombley, K8TAT](#)

SSRC Board of Directors

first Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Green Clover Hall

All are welcome



Committee Chairs

[Membership & Events – Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K](#)

[Trustee K4GSO – Wayne Brown, N4FP](#)

[Newsletter – Marty Brown, N4GL](#)

[Perry Field—Terry Strey](#)

[QST NFL](#) – NFL Section Newsletter

[Silver Springs Radio Club Website](#)

[NFL Section Website](#)

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)

[NG3K DX](#)